

N. RECREATION

SETTING

This section discusses characteristics of recreational facilities in the vicinity of the project area that could be affected by project construction and operation. Recreational facilities (e.g., parks, campgrounds, picnic areas, beaches, playgrounds, natural reservations, bicycling and hiking trails) are typically developed and maintained by local governments, such as cities, counties and special districts, although state and federal governments also operate such facilities. Due to the programmatic nature of the project and the extensive geographic scope of the project area, all the local recreational facilities that could potentially be affected by the project are not included at this programmatic level of analysis.

These cities and counties within the SCG/SDG&E service territories that establish the project area are home to neighborhood, county, and regional parks, beaches, historical parks, open space areas, and wilderness areas. The project area also includes networks of regional, county and local trails. In addition, water and utility districts preserve and manage thousands of acres of watershed lands, and counties or special districts manage open space reserves in many of the counties. City-owned parks and recreation facilities are operated and maintained by the respective parks and recreation departments of those cities.

REGULATIONS, APPROVALS, AND PERMITS APPLICABLE TO RECREATION

Approximately one-third of the cities and 40 percent of the counties in the state have adopted parks and recreation elements as part of their general plans (OPR, 1998). These elements, as well as the land use and open space and conservation elements in general plans without recreation elements, may include a range of policies and standards regarding park and recreational facilities. These plans may also include local definitions of recreational value that differ from that of CEQA. For any construction or other actions associated with project implementation within state park units, the State Department of Parks and Recreation would require, at a minimum, a Right of Entry Permit to be issued by the State Parks. No other local, state, or federal regulations applicable to recreational resources have been identified at this level of analysis.

IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>		<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation</i>	<i>Less Than Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
RECREATION					
a)	Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b)	Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c)	Would the project result in permanent and/or temporary impacts, such as possible disruption of recreational activities, affecting the recreational value of existing facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

APPROACH TO ANALYSIS

This analysis identifies the recreational facilities that could be affected by short-term project construction. The project would not have a long-term impact on recreational resources.

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING SIGNIFICANCE

The analysis of significance of impacts of the proposed project is based on the CEQA environmental checklist and an additional consideration. The project would be deemed to have a significant environmental impact if it would cause or accelerate physical deterioration of existing parks or recreation facilities, or if it would include or require new recreational facilities that would have an adverse environmental impact. For the purposes of this analysis, the project would also be considered to have a significant environmental impact if it would substantially disrupt the use of existing recreational facilities to the extent that it would affect the recreational value of such facilities; this discussion is included under “Criteria C” below.

IMPACT MECHANISMS

Projects that create a demand for recreation may require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. Project impacts on recreational facilities would be temporary as the project does not propose to construct any parks or recreational areas, permanently alter any existing facilities, or increase the use of existing facilities. Construction associated with the project could temporarily disrupt adjacent or nearby recreational facilities, effectively decreasing the availability or value of recreational opportunities, albeit temporarily.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- a. Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated? OR*
- b. Would the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?*

The proposed project does not include the construction of new recreational facilities, nor would it result in increased demand for or use of parks or recreational facilities. Thus, no impacts would occur to neighborhood and regional parks, recreation areas and facilities.

- c. Would the project result in permanent and/or temporary impacts, such as possible disruption of recreational activities, affecting the recreational value of existing facilities?*

Impact REC-1: The project would intermittently and temporarily disrupt existing nearby recreational facilities for the duration of project construction.

Potential impacts to existing recreational facilities would occur only if required access to a gas pipeline was located in a recreational area. In this instance, any impacts would be minimal and short-term.

Project construction would involve installing conduit within existing natural gas pipelines. Construction activities for FIG installation would be almost entirely within road rights-of-way. Project construction would not directly affect or alter any recreational facility. Although project construction could potentially be visible and audible from recreational areas, it would not substantially impair the use or value of any such facility.

Mitigation Measure: No mitigation is required.